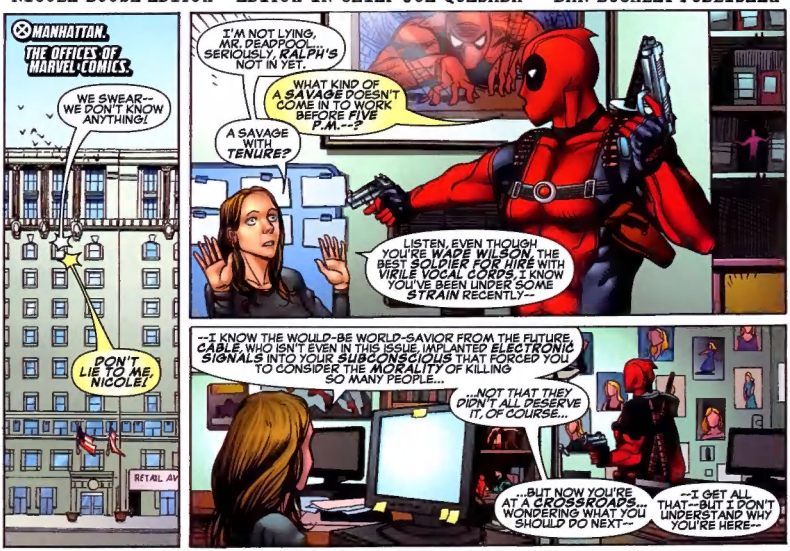
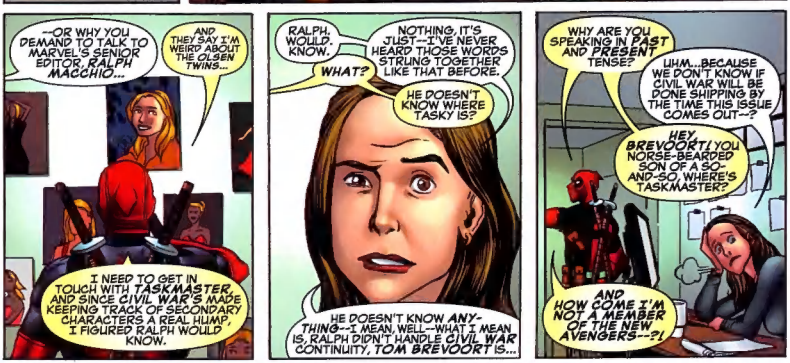
UNFINISHED BUSINESS: PART ONE

FABIAN NICIEZA-WRITER REILLY BROWN-PENCILER
JEREMY FREEMAN-INKER
PATRICK ZIRCHER, ANDREW PEPOY and STUDIO F'S EDGAR DELGADO-COVER
GOTHAM-COLORIST DAVE SHARPE-LETTERER
NICOLE BOOSE-EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF-JOE QUESADA DAN BUCKLEY-PUBLISHER


MANHATTAN.
THE OFFICES OF MARVEL COMICS.
WE SWEAR--WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
DON'T LIE TO ME, NICOLE!
RETAIL AV
I'M NOT LYING, MR. DEADPOOL, SERIOUSLY. RALPH'S NOT IN YET.
WHAT KIND OF A SAVAGE DOESN'T COME IN TO WORK BEFORE FIVE P.M.--?
A SAVAGE WITH TENURE?
LISTEN, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE WADE WILSON, THE BEST SOLDIER FOR HIRE WITH VIRILE VOCAL CORDS, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN UNDER SOME STRAIN RECENTLY--
--I KNOW THE WOULD-BE WORLD-SAVIOR FROM THE FUTURE, CABLE, WHO ISN'T EVEN IN THIS ISSUE, IMPLANTED ELECTRONIC SIGNALS INTO YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS THAT FORCED YOU TO CONSIDER THE MORALITY OF KILLING SO MANY PEOPLE...
...NOT THAT THEY DIDN'T ALL DESERVE IT, OF COURSE...
...BUT NOW YOU'RE AT A CROSSROADS... WONDERING WHAT YOU SHOULD DO NEXT--
--I GET ALL THAT--BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE HERE--


--OR WHY YOU DEMAND TO TALK TO MARVEL'S SENIOR EDITOR, RALPH MACCHIO...
AND THEY SAY I'M WEIRD ABOUT THE OLSEN TWINS...
I NEED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH TASKMASTER, AND SINCE CIVIL WAR'S MADE KEEPING TRACK OF SECONDARY CHARACTERS A REAL HUMP, I FIGURED RALPH WOULD KNOW.
RALPH. WOULD. KNOW.
NOTHING, IT'S JUST--I'VE NEVER HEARD THOSE WORDS STRUNG TOGETHER LIKE THAT BEFORE.
WHAT?
HE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE TASKY IS?
HE DOESN'T KNOW ANY-THING--I MEAN, WELL--WHAT I MEAN IS, RALPH DIDN'T HANDLE CIVIL WAR CONTINUITY, TOM BREVOORT IS...
WHY ARE YOU SPEAKING IN PAST AND PRESENT TENSE?
UHM...BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW IF CIVIL WAR WILL BE DONE SHIPPING BY THE TIME THIS ISSUE COMES OUT--?
HEY, BREVOORT! YOU NORSE-BEARDED SON OF A SO-AND-SO, WHERE'S TASKMASTER?
AND HOW COME I'M NOT A MEMBER OF THE NEW AVENGERS--?!

CABLE & DEADPOOL (ISSN #1932-8850) **No. 36, March, 2007.** Published Monthly by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. **PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.**

© 2007 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $3.75 in Canada (GST #R127032852) in the direct market and $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand; Canadian Agreement #40668537.

Printed in the USA. Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. $27.00; Canada $37.00; Foreign $39.00. **POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO CABLE & DEADPOOL, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTION DEPT, P.O. BOX 110 HEWBURGH, NY 12550. TELEPHONE # (800) 217-9158. FAX # (845) 457-5029. subscriptions@marvelsubs.com.**

ALAN FINE, President & CEO Of Marvel Toys and Marvel Publishing, Inc.; DAVID BOGART, VP Of Publishing Operations; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. GABRIE, Managing Editor; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Maimone, Advertising Director, at jmaimone@marvel.com or 212-576-8534. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.

YOU WANT TO FIND TASKMASTER?
ARE YOU DEAF NOW, TOO?
AND YET, THE NAME REMAINS, SIMPLY, BLIND AL.
GOOD POINT.
SO... TASKMASTER?
MY REP IS SHOT, AL.
IN COMPARISON TO WHAT IT ALWAYS WAS--?
I COULDN'T GET HIRED TO SHOOT UP A METHADONE CLINIC.
TIME WAS, I HAD THE CHOPS, AL...
AND NO PURPOSE.
...DID WHATEVER THE JOB REQUIRED...
WITH NO REGARD TO THE CONSEQUENCES.
YES! EXACTLY! YOU ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD ME.
WHICH SAYS QUITE A LOT ABOUT ME...
AND THAT WHOLE KEEPING YOU HOSTAGE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME AS A TWISTED MEANS OF TORTURING YOU AND NURTURING MYSELF...?
WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE.
COOL. YOU'RE THE BEST. SO... TASKMASTER...?
SO...
IF I FIND HIM AND TOTALLY HAND HIM HIS ASS IN A VERY PUBLIC FORUM, I'LL RECLAIM MY REP.
THAT'S THE GREATEST PLAN I'VE EVER HEARD.
YOU MEAN IT?
SMOOCH!
I KNEW YOU WOULD VALIDATE ME...
WOOO-HOOO!
IDIOT...

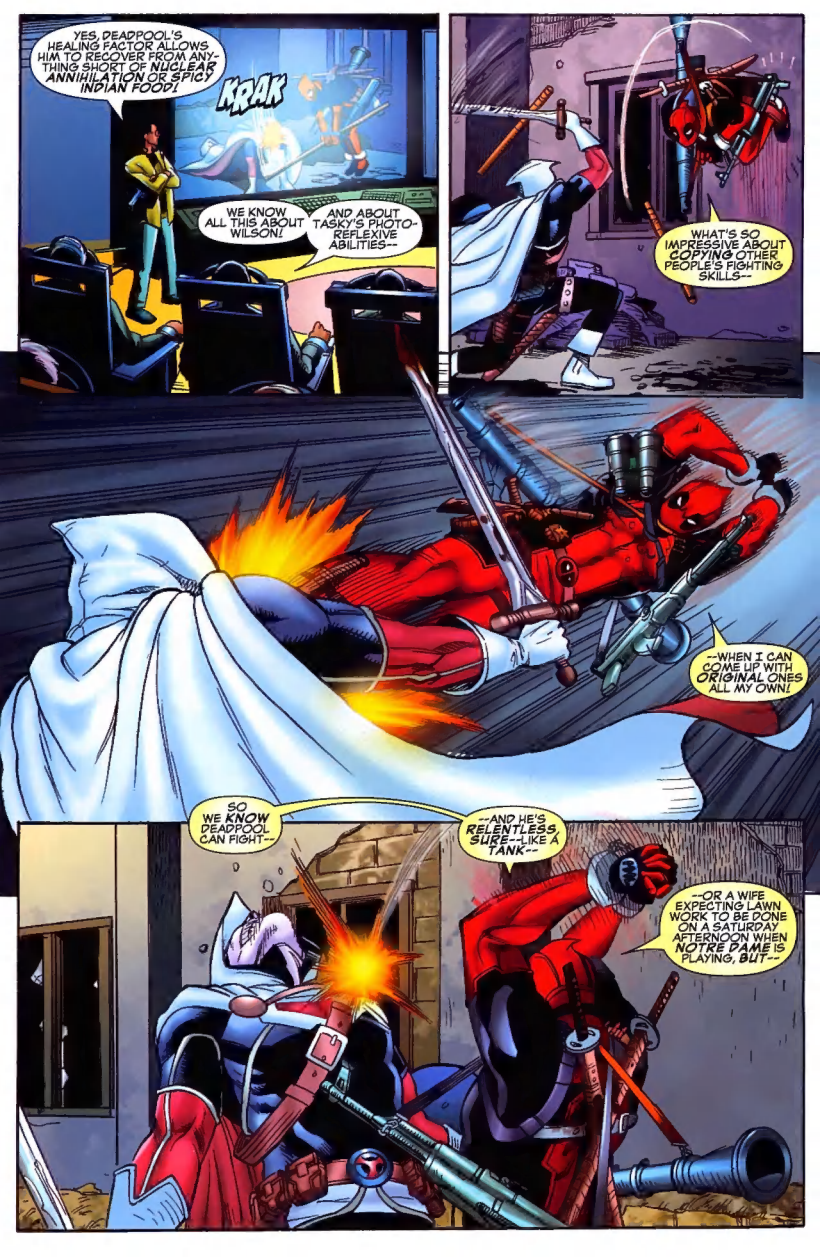
I DON'T KNOW, WADE. IT SOUNDS KIND OF...RISKY.
RISK IS MY MIDDLE NAME.
I THOUGHT IT WAS WINSTON.
SHUT UP.
I ALREADY HAD MY PLAN VALIDATED, WEASEL. THAT'S NOT WHY I CAME TO YOU...
THE RIGHT WEAPON FOR THE RIGHT JOB.
EXACTLY.
HOW'S MY SHOOTING? CALL 1-800-DEP-PIL
FREE ONE-LINER WITH EVERY KILL!
SEE, TASKMASTER IS TOUGH.
PHOTO-REFLEXIVE MEMORY. A CATALOGUE OF LOTS OF FIGHT MOVES IN HIS BRAIN-PAN...
LIKE I SAID, IT'S RISKY.
DREAM BIG, WEAS. TASKY IS STILL IN THE TOP FIVE FORBES LIST OF HOT MERCENARIES.
WITH GOOD REASON. HE'S A PRO'S PRO.
AFTER I TOTALLY HAND HIM HIS ASS, THEN YOU CAN MAKE LOVE TO HIM.
HE'S GOT THAT PHOTO-REFLEXIVE MEMORY AND A BOX SET OF "OZ"...
THE POSSIBILITIES ARE STAGGERING, I GRANT YOU...
POP!
AND YOU'RE SURE THIS IS THE GUN YOU WANTED ME TO CUSTOMIZE FOR YOU?
I HAVE A PLAN...
WHICH I HOPE INCLUDES ACTUALLY YOU KNOW, FINDING TASKMASTER?
GIVE ME A COUPLE WEEKS, MEANWHILE, YOU DO THAT OTHER STUFF...

...TO BRING YOU ALONG WITH SO MANY OTHERS HERE TO SEE WADE IN ACTION!
THIS IS INSANE! YOU KIDNAPPED US TO SHOWCASE DEADPOOL?
I DIDN'T, HE DID.
PLEASE REMEMBER THAT, YOU KNOW, SHOULD YOU HAPPEN TO ESCAPE OR DECIDE LATER ON...
"...YOU WEREN'T SATISFIED WITH THE ACCOMMODATIONS.
"GENERAL, I'M SURE YOU RECOGNIZE THIS FACILITY.
"IT IS THE FORMER ARMY SPECIAL FORCES MISSIONS TRAINING GROUND OUTSIDE OF PROVO, UTAH.
"DEADPOOL INVITED YOU ALL HERE TO WATCH HIM IN ACTION AGAINST ONE OF THE TOUGHEST, ORNERIEST, NASTIEST, NIFTIEST MERCENARIES THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN...
"...TASKMASTER!
"AND NOW..."
THE THINGS I DO FOR FRIENDS I CAN'T STAND...

"...LET THE GAMES BEGIN!"
DO I KILL HIM OR JUST MAIM HIM?
KILLING HIM WOULD BE SO MUCH MORE SATISFYING...
PHOTO-REFLEXIVE MEMORY KICKIN' IN THERE, HUH, TASKY?
TRYING TO CHANNEL THE INVISIBLE WOMAN...?
OR MAYBE A FRENCH SOLDIER...
...Y'KNOW, THIS COULD GET AWKWARD...

GYAAAAAAAAH!
SCARED THE PANTS OFF OF ME... WELL, NOT LITERALLY, 'CAUSE THEN YOU'D BE ALL DISTRACTED BY TWO BAZOOKAS...
YOU KNOW--
--ON ACCOUNT OF I GOT ONE REAL BAZOOKA--
--AND THE OTHER BAZOOKA WOULD BE A METAPHOR FOR--
SHUT UP!
I GET IT.
YOU THINK IT WAS DEEP OR SOMETHING?
LIKE YOUR HUMOR REQUIRES FOOTNOTES?

BREAKING NEWS, WILSON... YOU AIN'T FUNNY...
SON OF A--THAT HURTS--
AND I REFER ONLY TO YOUR CUTTING WORDS, GOOD SIR!
OWW!
BUT THEY DON'T HURT NEARLY AS MUCH AS THIS WILL...
SHUKK
AAAGH!
YEAH, PROBABLY HURTS EVEN MORE IF YOU DON'T HAVE A HEALING FACTOR, HUH...?
YOU KNOW... LIKE I DO...
-NNRRNN-
GUSHT
OOH, DID I SEE CHIPS OF TEETH FLYING WITH THAT ONE? THAT'S OLD-SCHOOL, BABY...


YES, DEADPOOL'S HEALING FACTOR ALLOWS HIM TO RECOVER FROM ANYTHING SHORT OF NUCLEAR ANNIHILATION OR SPICY INDIAN FOOD!
KRAK
WE KNOW ALL THIS ABOUT WILSON!
AND ABOUT TASKY'S PHOTO-REFLEXIVE ABILITIES--
WHAT'S SO IMPRESSIVE ABOUT COPYING OTHER PEOPLE'S FIGHTING SKILLS--
--WHEN I CAN COME UP WITH ORIGINAL ONES ALL MY OWN!
SO WE KNOW DEADPOOL CAN FIGHT--
--AND HE'S RELENTLESS, SURE--LIKE A TANK--
--OR A WIFE EXPECTING LAWN WORK TO BE DONE ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON WHEN NOTRE DAME IS PLAYING, BUT--

--WHAT ABOUT HIS TACTICAL TRAINING...?
CAN HE USE THE FIELD ENVIRONMENT TO HIS TACTICAL ADVANTAGE?
FRICKIN' JAW IS KILLING ME... FORGOT HOW HARD HE HITS...
THE ANSWER IS YES!
OH.. CRAP...
SURE, YOU'RE SAYING, NOT ALL FIELD OPERATIONS HAVE THE LUXURY OF LITTLE BITS 'N' PIECES OF GEORGE PEREZ CITY RUBBLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF...

CAN HE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF JUNGLE COVER? YUP!
DELAY PURSUIT THROUGH ANY AVAILABLE MEANS? YUP!
USE MOTHER NATURE FOR SUPPORT--AND PERHAPS, THE OCCASIONAL TOILET RUN--? YUP!
GO ALL REEP DAGGLE AND BECOME AS UNTO A GRAIN OF SAND IN THE MIDDLE OF A DESERT?
FWOOOOOO
THAP
OH, C'MON...

THWUMP!
IF THE ANSWER TO ALL THOSE QUESTIONS WAS YES--AND BY THE WAY, IT WAS---
--THEN THE ANSWER TO ALL YOUR MERCENARY NEEDS IS...
...DEADPOOL!
SAY IT WITH A "P", CAUSE WITH A "O" IT'S DEAPCOOL, WHICH I AM, BUT DEADPOOL IS HOW YOU WRITE THE CHECKS!
WHAT IF WE WERE TO SAY IT WITH AN "F."
FEADPOOL?
DEADFOOL...
OH. NO. THAT DOESN'T WORK EITHER.
YOU THINK WE NEEDED TO BE SHOWN WHAT A DEADLY FIGHTING MACHINE YOU ARE, WILSON? EVERYONE KNOWS THAT!
BUT THIS ENTIRE CHARADE PROVES ONLY ONE THING--
HOW MUCH I CARE?
THAT YOU'RE AN IDIOT!
A BRAIN-ADDLED, ANNOYING, INSOLENT BUFFOON, AND THAT MAKES YOU A DANGEROUS LIABILITY IN EVERY DELICATE OPERATION AND TO EVERY FIELD OPERATIVE OUT THERE!
UNTIL YOU FIND A WAY TO GROW UP, YOU'RE JUST NOT WORTH THE RISK, WILSON. SIMPLE AS THAT.
NOW CUT US LOOSE OR SO HELP ME GOD, I WILL DROP A BUNKER BUSTER ON YOUR HEAD!

MANHATTAN. TWO WEEKS LATER...
FRACKIN' TWIST-OFF CAP...
--BREAKING NEWS FROM OUR SISTER AFFILIATE IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA--
NNGGGMM-- EVIL, EVIL, CAP...
--A PRISON TRANSPORT TRAIN WAS DESTROYED AS A SUPERHUMAN PRISONER APPARENTLY ESCAPED.
IT WASN'T ME!
THE UNSTOPPABLE, RAMPAGING RHINO FLED INTO THE GEORGIA NIGHT WITH NO FURTHER WORD OF HIS WHEREABOUTS.
HEY, THAT'S MY OLD KEYCHAIN!
RECENTLY STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT, FEDERAL AND SUPERHUMAN AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ADDRESS THE ESCAPE--
--LEAVING LOCALS TO WONDER, EVEN WITH A SUBSTANTIAL REWARD POSTED FOR RHINO'S CAPTURE...
...WHO WILL HELP KEEP THEM SAFE?
THAT'S IT...THAT'S IT!
I CAN'T GET A SNIFF AS A MERC FOR HIRE...
...SO I'LL BE A SUPER HERO INSTEAD!
NEXT:
IT REALLY DOESN'T GO THE WAY YOU'D EXPECT...

DEAR DEADPOOL

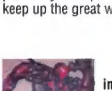
Hey, Nicole -- check this out -- in the fashion that made America great, if you whine enough, you'll get what you want! We said we wanted more letters -- AND WE GOT MORE LETTERS! Yay. The bad side to all this is... we got more letters... and quite a lot of you -- might I mention? -- are improving your language skills.

Okay, here we go...

Hey Deadpool and friends (or acquaintances),

After seeing that there was a lack of letters at the end of ish 34 I decided there was no time like the present to write my very first piece of fan mail. I LOVE DEADPOOL! Some might say I'm obsessed. I love the mix of humor and action. I really enjoy the story and can't wait to see Deadpool shoot Cable more in the future. Also I have attached a pic of my Deadpool tattoo. Until next time, keep up the great work.

Your fan always,
Eric Allgood



Eric, dude, that ink is nifty! I'm likin' it. Looks like an Ed McGuinness Me, right? I miss him. He made me very muscular in all the right spots – you know what I mean, right?

Hey guys,

I wrote to you a while back (and was printed way back in issue 15--where I threatened puppies). I wanted to write in again saying how much I still love this book every month. I've even been converting people to the book.

The Civil War tie-ins were fantastic and even people who hate Cable and Wade (because they are from the 90s) were saying how much they loved the tie-ins. So kudos to all of you!

And recently I read that you are bringing back Rhino--which we all just know will be fun.

I seriously hope this book sticks around forever.

And Fabian, any plans on writing another X-Book? Your run back in the mid-90s is still my favorite run of all time.

One last thing and I will leave you be. About a year ago I finally got my Deadpool tattoo, and well, I've been wanting to share it. Feel free to post it (and yes, I am taking donations for my Agent X tat... muwahahahahhaa).

Anyway thank you guys so much for this comic every month.

-Mike "bairdduvessa" Higgins,
(sadly) still on Cape Cod

Hey, Mike, that's a cool tat, too! I can't tell who drew me there, or what it is I'm doing with the Ultimate Nullifier, but it's all good. Oh, wait, that was our previous letter writer. Anyway, based on that pose up there, I'm just glad you didn't put the ink on your butt...

As for your liking Fabian's X-work, well, all we can say is these kind words ARE coming from a man who has a tattoo of me on his body. But, we ran your idea of Fabian writing more X-stuff past new X-editor Axel Alonso and he said he'd have an answer for you as soon as he stopped laughing. Which we figure will be in about three or four years...

Dear Deadpool,

This is a letter I am writing to tell you the depth of my hatred for you. You see, I am a starving university student in Canada and one of the very twelve people who jumped on the C&D bandwagon because of Civil War. Damn your nonchalant attitude and awesome sense of humour that makes me come back to this drivel!!!! Why won't you just suck like all the other crap out there so I can use my money on food or maybe rent? I am going to get kicked out next week because of you!!! Please, I hope you start to suck so I can drop you like a chimchimaga.

Shohaib Abdul

Okay, Shohaib, maybe you should not worry so much about spending your meager earnings on school and books and stuff, since if you're a college student who can't spell chimichanga properly, chances are pretty good you don't have much of a future anyway.

But, on a more helpful note, we figure there must be plenty of crap out there on the market you can drop to free up some extra cash. In fact, there are plenty of books that don't have ME in them, start with those...

Dear Deadpool -

I'm sorry you were faced with a letter-less letters page. Can you blame us for not writing? You are the Merc With A Mouth - I guess we thought you'd enjoy the opportunity to, well, run your mouth. Besides, we fans can only write in to say "This comic is great/ Wade is funny/Nicieza really understands the characters/Isn't it a good thing Nate doesn't wear those big dorky shoulder pads anymore?" before we start feeling like broken records.

So anyway, here's a letter for ya. I've even got a couple questions!

1. She-Hulk #13's letters page also had no letters, and now Pip the Troll is stealing your thing and is answering the letters personally. If you and this Pip the Troll fellow had a fight, who would win? Bea Arthur faces the winner.

2. In the letters page for #24 you told me that I'm an A+ Cable & Deadpool fan, apart from living in Philly. What's your beef with Philadelphia? Are you jealous that I live a mere 20-some blocks from the Liberty Bell, whereas you need to teleport there? (Wait -- I wish I could teleport there! Or even teleport someplace cool...) Or did something bad happen to you in Philly? Is this horrific event collected in some type of purchaseable trade paperback?

3. Do you see yourself and Nate making up anytime soon? It breaks my heart to see you kids fighting. And I mean both the gun-shooting-fighting and the hurt-feelings fighting.

Thanks for another exciting issue!

-Andy Holman
Philadelphia, PA

Andy, just because all you can do when writing is send us all some love, that's no reason not to write. We need love, too, you know.

Oooh, numbered questions! It feels like it's been so long, I missed you my numerical friends...

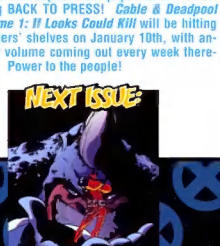
1. First of all, of course She-Hulk copied us. Slott will do anything it takes to get his book to last as long as ours has. Nicieza says, "Hah. Good luck, grasshopper." As for the fight, I'd roll Pip into a cigar and smoke him, but we all know Bea would smoke both of us.

2. I got nothin' against Philly personally, but the man who types my answers is a Rangers, Yankees and Jets fan who moved far enough south in Jersey that he has to face Flyers, Phillies and Eagles fans all around him. Shudder.

3. Yeah, you know, I honestly don't know if Nate n' me can quit each other forever, but right now, it's not good. Besides, all of a sudden he's all popular with the X-office, so you can pretty much figure out what that means for lil' ol' me. Always a bridesmaid, never an X-Man. Which isn't fair, you know, `cause I have that Marvel Girl costume all dry-cleaned and everything...

Nicole sez: Next issue, Deadpool fights the Rhino... and shrinkage ensues! Take a sneak peek at this awesome cover by Skottie Young.

Also, due to your massive public outcry, Cable & Deadpool trade paperbacks are now going BACK TO PRESS! *Cable & Deadpool Volume 1: If Looks Could Kill* will be hitting retailers' shelves on January 10th, with another volume coming out every week thereafter. Power to the people!



ANTHONY DIAL PRODUCTION
NICOLE BOOSE EDITOR
E-MAIL: MHEROES@MARVEL.COM
MARK E-MAIL OKAY TO PRINT?
LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT & LENGTH.
JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER
PATRICK ZIRCHER, ANDREW PEPOY & EDGAR DELGADO COVER